

## Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum

from

# Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records

10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

April 27, 2020

**Attending:** Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, Kelly Robertson, NSLAPR; Liz Moore, NV State Archives; Hope Williams, Brett Silver, NSLAPR Talking Books; Leslie Scott, Amargosa Valley; Julia Brown, Douglas County; Amy Geddes, Wynne Prindle, Lyon County; Jeff Scott, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Kassie Antonucci, Elko; Elizabeth Robinson, Humboldt County; Joy Gunn, Leona Vittum-Jones, Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Diane Baker, Amy Lauder, Carson City; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Susan Wonderly, Shanna Gibbons, Alysha Wogee, Pahrump; Kathie Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Jeanne Bleecker, Smoky Valley; Lori Romero, White Pine County; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Anna Brueher, Lyon County Schools; Holly Esposito, Washoe County School District; Mary Shultz, UNR Medical Library; Kathi Ray, UNR; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Ron Belbin, WNC; Randi Hunewill, SCLL.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW

### Strengths:

- Reopening plans are underway
- Libraries will strengthen ties to schools by offering the MyOn eBook program and attending joint training sessions with DOE
- Nevada joined the Western Pact along with California, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado and will work with them on a unified messaging on opening libraries
- Libraries are proving themselves to be an essential service by providing 3D technologies, digital technology/programming, and education alliances
- Libraries are increasing their visibility among the government, media, and public

### Struggles:

- Transitioning library program to digital formats
- Overcoming resistance to digital programming
- Maintaining service in some areas
- Smoother digital interfaces needed for education and public.

## Opportunities

- Help businesses, medical organizations, and education by providing resources
- Strengthen ties to the business and local schools
- Continue to assist students and faculty with digital resources
- Maintaining programming to provide a human touch for our community

## Trends

- Providing digital hardware and services to our communities
- Building alliances with other state libraries
- Continuing positive impressions of state and local government, educators, business community, media, and public
- Blended curriculum of digital and in person instruction will continue after the current crisis abates
- Digital and in person training as future need for job training, government resources, and continuing education
- Development of a regional professional library community

## State Librarian Update

Tammy Westergard: A checklist with considerations for library reopening has been developed and will be sent out following the meeting. The week of May 11, a follow-up survey will be sent so libraries can check how they are doing in regard to the checklist points. There will be a short response time for the survey due to time constraints. A think tank will be formed to develop final recommendations; Forrest Lewis and Jeff Scott have volunteered to be part of the think tank. It looks as though a potential timeline might have the state beginning to reopen around the end of May, and in order to be useful, the think tank's recommendations will need to be completed by May 18.

DOE - The State Superintendent of Schools has acquired access to MyOn, an eBook database, and will make it available to libraries as well as schools. Libraries have also been invited to attend training webinars, and the schedule of webinars will be sent. The big idea is that we're all in this together, and schools and libraries will work together to leverage work done over the summer. There will likely be a culminating event, and DOE has asked for our help. It is still a work in progress and more information will be coming.

CARES Act – there is not a lot of new information. The funds have been received and are being into a work program which gives authority to spend them.

LSTA - The State Council on Libraries and Literacy (SCLL) will meet April 29, 2020 to review competitive grant applications and have Q and A sessions with applicants. There will be four cycles of mini grants during the upcoming year with the first application deadline being May 15. Federal Year 20 project end dates have been extended to August 31, 2021. There are some funds available due to the cancelation of travel and workshops, and best use of the additional funds is under consideration.

FEMA - Tammy asked if any libraries had applied for FEMA grants. Diane Baker from Carson City Public Library said that the Carson City has not, but the library might be getting some funds indirectly. Tammy

Westergard advised libraries to check with their municipalities about funding through FEMA. She remarked that NSLAPR may be eligible for FEMA COVID-19 reimbursements for Mail Services.

## **Library Updates**

Kathy Ray: The UNR Library is doing a large amount of work for students and instructors. Working on how to return materials from student and faculty lockers and carrels, scanning materials for online classes and research, and delivering documents for faculty and students. The technology group is working hard to keep courses online as summer enrollment is higher than last year.

Diane Baker: KOLO stopped by the Carson City Library and did a story on the library using 3D printers to make PPE materials for hospitals and governments. Working alongside UNR Medical, the 3D resin printer is being used to make nasal swabs for COVID 19 testing. The 3D printer was purchased as part of a LSTA project several years ago and this use is showing the value of LSTA grants. Tammy Westergard added that this is a great example of how adept libraries are at meeting the needs of the communities. She also mentioned that libraries may be able to play a role in contact testing and tracing, and if libraries are interested in participating, they should let her know.

Ron Belbin: The WNC library is working with faculty and students to help them get online, providing academic coaching, and activating a new online platform. They are providing reference through email and phone. Many students have deliberately avoided being online and are reluctant users. The library is using links in Canvas and social media to reach out to them. All summer classes will be online this year. In the future, WNC will offer a more blended environment with more online classes.

Lori Romero: The White Pine County Library is still open to the public, but with restrictions - by appointment only, limited number of people in the building, and strict adherence to protocols regarding social distancing and cleaning. They are using their 3D printer to manufacture straps for masks that helps keep them in place while being used. Tammy Westergard added that the White Pine Library is a model for libraries to consider when reopening and would like them to be a part of the think tank for making guidelines on reopening the libraries.

Amy Geddes: Replied via chat that the Lyon County library is hanging in there.

Forrest Lewis: North Las Vegas is doing good work for local businesses and schools while preparing plans for reopening. They set up a call center manned by library staff to assist businesses with their paperwork and direct them to the proper departments and resources for help. Staff and city workers also made follow up calls, after robocalls and emails, that added a human touch to the recovery. The library received a great deal of feedback and praise from the community regarding their efforts. Tammy Westergard followed up by saying that this crisis is an opportunity to raise our profile by partnering with agencies and education departments to show how the library is a vital resource.

Hope Williams: Talking Books is not sending out books but are answering emails and voice emails. They are still adding new patrons and are using downloading options. We are adding a new circ model that uses duplication on demand on what they ask for, downloading cartridges that each hold 10 recordings. The recruiting program is on hiatus but want to pick it up as soon as possible.

Maggie Farrell: The UNLV Library is continuing with things reported before. On a more upbeat note, they increased their social media presence by taking “Mandy the Skeleton” around the library. Mandy was documented doing activities around the library. It was fun for students and visitors and drew international attention from the media. Their Facebook page gained 800 new followers and many more on Instagram. As a story on Yahoo!Life reported, Farrell hopes this gesture shows students how much they mean to the school and its resident skeleton. “We hope students know how much we miss them and we are thinking of their academic and health needs,” she says. “And that Mandy will welcome students back with joy with his skinny outstretched arms when it is safe to be together again.”